



Michigan Osteopathic
Association

TO: House Health Policy Committee Members

FROM: Kris Nicholoff – CEO/Executive Director, Michigan Osteopathic Association

DATE: June 23, 2011

SUBJECT: HB 4603 - Direct Access to Physical Therapists

The Michigan Osteopathic Association, which represents 7,000 licensed osteopathic physicians in Michigan, opposes HB 4603 which removes the prescription requirement by a physician for access to a Physical Therapist.

This proposal has been before standing health policy committees in past legislative sessions and in workgroup settings. MOA remains opposed, as we are not convinced that providing independent practice settings for PTs without the physician's prescription would necessarily result in improved access to care for the patient. Improving access to patient care is of high priority for MOA. It is our position that improving safe access to care happens by providing patient-centered quality care within an integrated, coordinated physician-led team.

In our opinion, HB 4603 moves in the opposite direction of such an approach; therefore MOA urges the House Health Policy Committee members to vote against advancing HB 4603 further in the legislative process.